RUBY ENVIRONMENT SETUP

Before we proceed practically, it is important to have an up-to-date environment. This tutorial will teach you all the important topics related to environment setup. I would recommend to go through the following topics first and then proceed further:

- Ruby Installation on Unix : If you are planning to have your development environment on Unix Machine then go through this chapter.

- Ruby Installation on Windows : If you are planning to have your development environment on Windows Machine then go through this chapter.

- Ruby Command Line Options : This chapter list out all the command line options which you can use along with Ruby interpreter.

- Ruby Environment Variables : This chapter has a list of all the important environment variables to be set to make Ruby Interpreter works.

Popular Ruby Editors:

To write your Ruby programs you will need an editor:

- If you are working on Windows machine then you can use any simple text editor like Notepad or Edit plus.

- VIM (Vi IMproved) is very simple text editor. This is available on almost all Unix machines and now Windows as well. Otherwise your can use your favorite vi editor to write Ruby programs.

- RubyWin is a Ruby Integrated Development Environment (IDE) for Windows.

- Ruby Development Environment (RDE) is also very good IDE for windows users.

Interactive Ruby (IRb):

Interactive Ruby (IRb) provides a shell for experimentation. Within the IRb shell, you can immediately view expression results, line by line.

This tool comes along with Ruby installation so you have nothing to do extra to have IRb working.

Just type **irb** at your command prompt and an Interactive Ruby Session will start as given below:

```
$irb
irb 0.6.1(99/09/16)
irb(main):001:0> def hello
irb(main):002:1> out = "Hello World"
irb(main):003:1> puts out
irb(main):004:1> end
nil
irb(main):005:0> hello
Hello World
nil
irb(main):006:0>
```

Do not worry about what I did here. You will learn about all these steps in subsequent chapters.

What is Next?

I assume now you have a working Ruby Environment and you are ready to write first Ruby Programs. Next chapter will teach you how to write Ruby programs.